

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for removing material from an external surface, the method comprising propelling a particulate media, entrained in a fluid, against said surface, characterized by the particulate media comprising particles having a core/shell structure in which a polymeric core is adherently covered with a shell of inorganic particles.

2. The process according to claim 1 in which the method comprises cleaning or polishing the surface by removing and discarding the removed material.

3. The process according to claim 1 in which the material to be removed is paint.

4. A process according to claim 1 wherein the particles are propelled against the surface by a controlled flow of a fluid comprising air and/or water.

5. A process according to claim 4 wherein the air is compressed air.

6. A process according to claim 1 wherein the material to be removed is a photoresist.

7. A process according to claim 3 wherein the surface is that of an airplane or part thereof.

8. A process according to claim 1 wherein the fluid is a liquid.

9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the fluid is primarily water.
10. A process according to claim 9 wherein the liquid further comprises sequestering agents and/or surfactants.
11. A process according to claim 1 wherein the fluid is a gas.
12. A process according to claim 11 wherein the fluid is compressed air.
13. A process according to claim 11 wherein the fluid is an inert gas.
14. A process according to claim 11 wherein the gas further comprises an antistatic agent.
15. A process according to claim 1 wherein the core is a styrenic or acrylic polymer.
16. A process according to claim 1 wherein the core is crosslinked.
17. A process according to claim 1 wherein the inorganic particles are colloidal silica.
18. A method of removing resist material from a processed printed circuit board comprising propelling a particulate media by a fluid in which the particulate media is entrained against a surface of the printed circuit board, wherein said particulate media comprises particles having a core/shell structure

comprising a polymeric core adherently covered with a shell of inorganic particles.

19. A method of removing flashes from a molded product comprising propelling a particulate media by a fluid, wherein the particulate media is entrained in the fluid, against a surface of said molded product, wherein said particulate media comprises particles having a core/shell structure comprising a polymeric core adherently covered with a shell of inorganic particles.

20. A method of removing a coating from an aerospace component comprising propelling a particulate media by a fluid in which the particulate media is entrained against a surface of the aerospace component, wherein said particulate media comprises particles having a core/shell structure comprising a polymeric core adherently covered with a shell of inorganic particles.

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